

# Redwood Valley Rancheria Tribal EPA Newsletter



## Solid Waste Updates

Quarterly community clean up coming soon! Read about one simple way to minimize your solid waste production.

## Water Updates

Hear from our knowledgeable in-house water operator about issues relating to the wet stuff pouring from your faucet.

## Community Spotlight

Ferrell cats have been multiplying. Check out the work being done to take a bite out of the nuisance humanely.



## WILDFIRE READY

With the end of the rainy season the time to prepare is now. But is there a reduced chance of wildfire after having a winter with above normal rainfall? The answer may surprise you.

# May 2019

## Solid Waste

As the Environmental Coordinator Assistant I would like to thank you all for the April 13<sup>th</sup> Spirit run. The yearly event was a success with food, dance, great weather, and many people coming together. The Redwood Valley Calpella Fire Department Brought out their rig and spoke about their work and even play an emergency siren. I also would like to point out how much hard work and learning took place during the week of Spring Break for the kids in the community. Their creativity will be showcased in our newsletters and mailers going forward and all of us here at Tribal EPA hope you enjoy this new addition.



### Community Clean Up Event Coming Soon

The last event back in February was a huge success. Thank you for helping keep the waste zone neat and orderly. We hope to continue assigning “metals” and “appliances” in nearby receptacles. Please remember that the bins are for large bulky items, trash and other waste go into the proper color waste receptacle at each residence. The dates for the cleanup are 5/14 To 5/21. Like usual, any elders needing assistance in waste removal are welcome to call the office at 707-485-0361 for a pick-up.

### Call for Art!

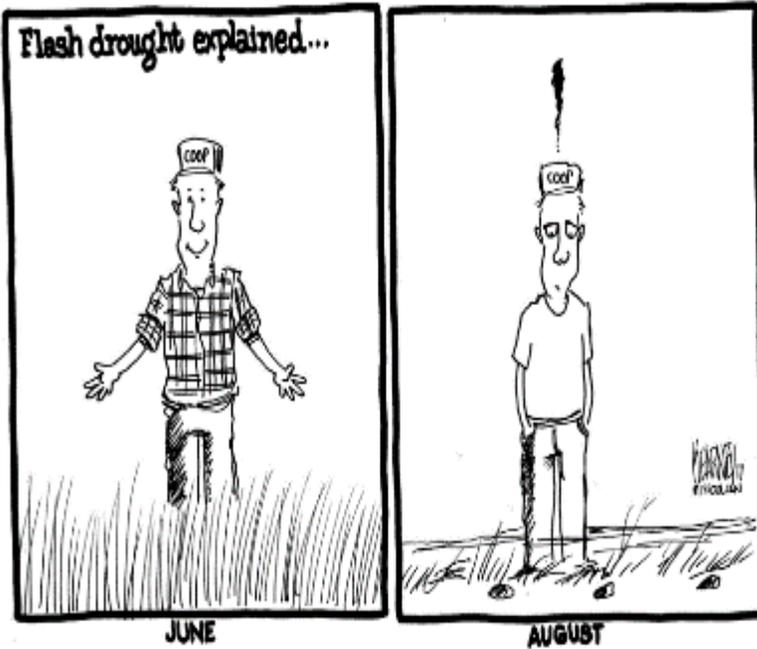
Please encourage the Picasso you know to create artwork that relates to any environmental themes. Drawings, poems, jokes, photography, or other. Include the artist name and age upon submission to staff of Building A or B. All ages and skill level welcome, thanks!

## Solid Waste Reduction in the Home

**MAKEUP AND PERSONAL CARE COMPANIES PRODUCE A HUGE AMOUNT OF PACKAGING – MUCH OF WHICH CANNOT BE RECYCLED.**

Just because your shampoo bottle or soap dispenser is recyclable doesn't mean it will be recycled. “There is no silver bullet,” says Meyselle in an April 17<sup>th</sup> article in The Guardian written by Lisa Niven Phillips, “People think glass is the answer, but it's very heavy to transport.” Some brands are working on using PCR (post-consumer recycled) materials and this leads to grey and less lavish packaging.

The best thing people can do to limit their waste creation other than reducing what is used is to vote with their mighty dollars. Soaps-for example-with minimal or no packaging and reasonable prices may be found at the Ukiah Natural Foods Co-op. (I like Sappo Hill, Dr. Bronner's is my 2<sup>nd</sup> favorite for bar soap) Hopefully now the next time you're in the aisle at the store you'll be making a choice that puts a dent in your solid waste production. Being clean and green doesn't have to clean your wallet out too.



LEARN OR RE-LEARN HOW TO DO CPR ON ADULTS AND INFANTS. A FREE CLASS IS BEING PROVIDED.

***SIGN UP NOW!***

CALL 707-485-0361 OR STOP BY BUILDING A OR B TO GET ON THE LIST!

Flash drought [which is what occurred in Montana in the summer of 2017] refers to relatively short periods of warm surface temperature and anomalously low and rapid decreasing soil moisture.”  
 -Science and Technology Infusion Climate Bulletin NOAA’s National Weather Service

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Flowers, longer days, warm weather. That means spring is here, but so is the peak season for Farrell cats to procreate. The only way to tackle this growing burden, besides making kitty soup, is to fix the cats. By spaying and neutering they’ll be unable to continue their population growth rate. This kitten reduction project is only possible thanks to the hard work of our trappers Nick Garcia, Juana Brown, and Julie Knudsen with Mendocino County Care-A-Van Spay and Neuter Program. By using specialized animal transport holders, the cats are picked-up for a ride to the local clinic for their operation and then returned after about a total of one day of detention. All of us at the Tribal Office see the hard work that gets put in and we want to say thank you.



## Water Resources Coordinator

1. *Want to have an impact on decisions made regarding the Utility department?* Join the Utility Board to make those decisions that affect your tribe. A Tribal member from the community is ideal. Members have a better insight on what the needs are and can voice those needs and direct the department to cater to those needs. They meet once a month. Building B. For questions call 707-485-0361.
2. *Water Conservation can save you money:* the less water a home uses in a tiered water billing system the less you are going to pay, moral of the story it pays to be conservative. We all know the water uses around our area with ponds and vineyards. But that doesn't mean we can't do our part with the water we are allocated. Every drop counts.
3. *Water Tank Condition:* I know this is all news you heard before however our tanks is over its life expectancy of 30 years. The tanks function not only holds our drinking water and allows us to have pressure, it also is there in the event of a fire. The Tribe is trying to secure funding for a new tank without having to pay for one. Please do you part and complete the RCAC MHI survey if you have not already.
4. *Water Testing:* We have lead and copper testing coming up starting in June. Every year the Tribes regulator, USEPA, tell us what we need to test for since we are a public water system. Part of that responsibility is to test for contaminants pathogens and metals in our water. We get a monitoring schedule every year. Will do our best to keep you informed.
5. *Need a job skill, join the free RCAC training to become a water operator with instructor Ron Sundberg.* Ron has been helping Tribal communities for years. Some of his most recent achievements are installing communications lines for Hopland water system. Training operators in Sherwood valley. The opportunities are tremendous. With the certification from the state, you can work for any water district in the state as well as other states. Ron is the Tribal assistance operator with support from surrounding tribes.

## Clean Water Act

*Kids in the creek:* we had Hopland EPA department teach us how to do a bio assessment in the Little Bird Creek. Bio assessment is taking samples of the creek and analyze those samples. Redwood Valley EPA and Education Department participated in bio assessment. Hopland EPA department had sent down Terri and Liana, who conducted the assessment as well as educated the youth that we had in attendance during the spring break. The youth were taught how to capture and analyze what was actually in the creek. They also took samples to look at under the microscope which is part of the assessment.

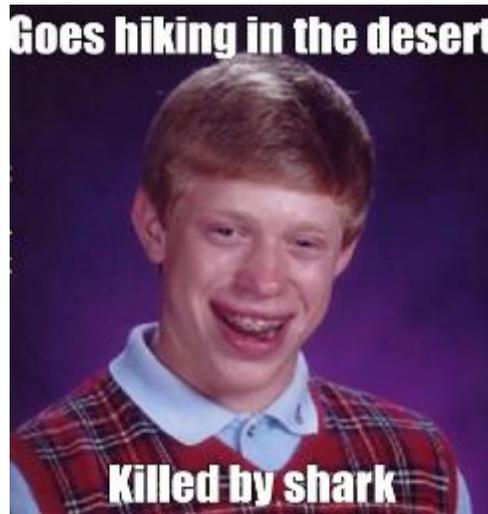
Overall that is what my job as the Water Resource Coordinator does, makes sure we are not getting any kind of contaminants into our creek. We have what's call a Quality Assurance Project Plan, similar to a monitoring plan, that gets approved by EPA. That plan tells us what we must do in order to stay in compliance with what grant we submitted for. We also have to submit reports quarterly to let our project officer know our current status. Maintaining clean water does not happen on its own, it's a group effort.

## Spring Break

With a week off from school the education office here at Redwood Valley had their hands full. Here is a small snippet of what went on here during Spring Break of 2019.



Topics discussed with the youth included drinking water, ecosystem health, outdoor safety, air quality, waste, erosion, and more. Terry Logsdon, the Environmental Director at Hopland, joined one afternoon to perform a bio-assessment at Little Bird Creek.



**Hiking**

**Making Hiking Memes**



Marker on Paper  
Artist: Anonymous  
Age: Unknown